



University of Hawaii at Manoa

Environmental Center

A Unit of Water Resources Research Center

Crawford 317 • 2550 Campus Road • Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

Telephone: (808) 956-7361

RL:01153

SB 700 SD1

RELATING TO MARINE AND COASTAL RESOURCES

House Committee on
Ocean Recreation and Marine Resources

Public Hearing - March 18, 1993
8:30 A.M., Room 1310 SOT

By

John T. Harrison, Environmental Coordinator
Frans Gerritsen, Ocean Engineering
Robert Kinzie, Zoology
Peter Rappa, Sea Grant

SB 700 SD1 would create an office of marine affairs within the Office of State Planning. Amendments to the bill add a provision to elevate the Ocean Resources Branch of the DBEDT to division status.

Our statement on this bill does not constitute an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

Creating the office within OSP has certain merits, chiefly in the conveyance of the clout of the governor's office. Also, the director would automatically become the chief spokesperson for state ocean affairs. However, there are also some drawbacks:

1. The office is given a broad range of responsibilities, yet little authority of its own to implement its programs.
2. There are clearly areas of jurisdictional overlap between the proposed office and existing agency programs which need to be resolved.

While the ORMP clearly articulated the need for coordination and prioritization of management activities, it seems clear that new research efforts are of paramount importance, yet they are not particularly strongly emphasized. For instance, much of the required coordination and prioritization will depend on the fine tuning of projected sea level rise due to global warming.

In terms of specifics, this measure lacks the detail of the measure originally proposed in the House, HB 56, in terms of proposed organization and functional responsibilities. Given the wide mandate of the measure, perhaps more specificity would be helpful. In the final analysis, this will require sufficient funding to ensure a comprehensive implementation, and given current budget constraints, it is likely that some stepwise implementation may be required.